West Newton, December 15,

158

Beloved Friends,:

The letter of your Committee invites us to be present, either in person or by letter, to celebrate with ~~you~~ our third Decade. In place of ourselves, we send a few words of earnest greeting, as our proxy.

The fittest celebration of the past is to gird ourselves anew for the present & the future. The crisis that is upon us speaks its own word. To us, that word is this:

This Conspiracy is Slavery. The fiend that planned it, that ripened the plot, & now
reeks
reeks with its perfidies, perjuries
myriad
& myriad murders, is Slavery — Slavery in arms — the whole of it, & nothing else; its body, soul, & spirit; — the focus of its life
rage
and heart
& the furnace of its rage; — its mad brain & heart, with all
greeds
their greeds, plots, & hates, ablaze with the fires of their own hell — every muscle & nerve-fibre on the rack, — thought & will strained into spasms & raving in frenzy. By its own act, by

God's decree, Slavery's last hour has come, if the Nation will have it so. Up from the whole land, from all the earth's ends, the great question comes, million-voiced: "Does the Nation know, will the Nation do the things that belongs to its peace, & to all human weal?" He that hath ears begins to hear the Nation's solemn voices saying, "we do & we will." ~~Terrible~~ no ¶

no ¶ Terrible things in righteousness, just retributions for our partnership in the infinite crime & curse, press up these words to-day upon the Nation's lips. We hear in them the voice of God. We see in the blow about to fall, the bolt of God, striking Slavery dead, & burning up its corpse, leaving not a hair of the accursed thing to taint the air, or stain the ground, or bow down one free grass blade,
tether tiniest
or tether the tiniest rootlet in the soil.

Hitherto, Slavery's intense vitality has pervaded its whole body; all these life-forces the rebellion has absorbed into itself. From all the extremities they have rushed to their centre. ~~One~~ True blows struck there, deal death to Slavery, ~~[illegible]~~, & to all its dragon-brood—

-aristocracy, caste, monopoly, class legislation, exclusive privilege & prerogative, all legalized oppression of the weak by the strong, with whatever obstructs "Liberty, Equality & Fraternity." For this, all oppressed peoples now turn their eyes hitherward.

Who, that hates slavery, & has clear eyesight, does not see, that the work of Abolitionists, for this hour, with prayer & pen, with voice & trumpet-blast, with men and money, with all weapons, by all means, in all ways, and with the whole soul, is to strike down this rebellion? It totters now, & slavery totters with it. See how it is struck down in the District of Columbia, Western Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, & in the Cherokee & Chocktaw Nations. See how ~~it reels~~ in Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Arkansas, Texas, Northern Mississippi, & Northern Alabama, it reels to-day!

O then, God grant us large vision to see, & high wisdom to do; help us to lay aside every weight, the chron

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Dec. 1, 1863. West Newton.

ic queries & criticisms, ~~ifs~~ ~~[illegible]~~, the non-essential ifs & buts that throng the hour; the multiform side-issues that so easily beset, & in His strength, uplift ourselves all together, to gird anew the Nation's arm, that it may bring down the final blow.

In hope, confidence, deep gratitude,
& solemn exultation,

Faithfully,
Your fellow servants,
Theodore D. Weld,
Angelina G. Weld,
Sarah M. Grimké.